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'CONTADORA GROUP' MEETING CONTINUES IN PANAMA

D'Escoto Meets With Colleagues

PA210035 Paris AFP in Spanish 2328 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Panama City, 20 Apr (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto met this afternoon with his colleagues from the "Contadora Group" countries: Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. The meeting to discuss the alternatives for negotiations in Central America took place in a climate of tension and total silence.

The other four Central American foreign ministers from Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala had met previously and separately with the Contadora Group. It is expected that nine Latin American foreign ministers who have been in Panama since yesterday will meet jointly tonight.

"The meetings are developing well, but not according to our plans," Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo told to AFP during a lunch recess while he awaited his Salvadoran colleague Fidel Chavez Mena in front of an elevator at the Continental Hotel.

"We have promised not to make any statements to the press, but the meetings are well underway," Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said, visibly nervous on seeing some reporters. When the Salvadoran foreign minister arrived, the four Central American ministers quickly left the hotel for an undetermined destination.

Nine Foreign Ministers Meet

PA211821 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Panama City, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A group meeting of the nine foreign ministers who are attending the working sessions to achieve peace in Central America is being held right now, diplomatic circles have told ACAN-EFE.

The meeting, which began shortly after 1100 (1600 GMT), is being attended by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group -- made up of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama -- and their counterparts from the five Central American countries. According to reports from high-ranking diplomatic circles attending the meetings, the round of bilateral meetings with the four ministers of the Contadora Group ended yesterday.

After an initial working session among the Contadora Group countries, called the "guarantors," the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and those of the Contadora Group began their group meeting.

Meanwhile, a Panamanian Government spokesman denied that Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado would be traveling to the Soviet Union next week, as the international news media reported. The spokesman indicated that no such trip is scheduled, while noting that Panama does not have diplomatic relations with the Moscow government.

Cesar Rondon Overa, Venezuelan ambassador to Panama, has told ACAN-EFE that Venezuelan Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano's trip to Moscow was planned months ago and that it falls within the usual contacts made among foreign ministers.

Talks End; Further Plans

PA220016 Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Panama City, 21 Apr (AFP) -- The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama, have announced their decision to "continue the process of consultations" on the Central American crisis, which they began last 12 April and whose second round of talks concluded today in Panama.

This "second phase of consultations permitted gaining a clearer and more profound idea of the views of each Central American country, defining the main topics of conflict and formulating an initial diagnosis of the nature of these conflicts," the three-page communique distributed to journalists tonight reads. The ministers also reiterated that the Central American countries themselves have the primary responsibility for securing agreements to guarantee a stable and lasting peace in the region.

Communique Issued

PA220316 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0103 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers in Panama City on 21 April; read by unidentified spokesman -- recorded]

[Text] In view of the worsening of the Central American conflicts which threaten peace in the entire region, the Colombian, Mexican, Panamanian and Venezuelan foreign ministers -- acting in accordance with the spirit of the Contadora Declaration of 9 January 1983 -- jointly visited Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala on 12-13 April, upon invitation from the governments of these countries. During these visits the ministers listened to the political stand expressed by each government, their desire to cooperate and their ideas and viewpoints on creating conditions favoring peace.

In light of the positive results of these talks, the Contadora Group foreign ministers invited the Central American foreign ministers to a second phase of consultations in the Republic of Panama 20-21 April. These consultations aimed at holding constructive talks on promoting effective communication to reduce tensions and establish the bases for stable and lasting regional peace.

The Contadora Group foreign ministers stressed with satisfaction the positive fact that for the first time during the current crisis, the Central American foreign ministers have agreed to continue their efforts through talks. The group also expressed its gratitude for the broad support its efforts have received from the international community.

This second phase of consultations made it possible to have a much clearer and profound knowledge of the each Central American country's viewpoint, to define the main topics of the controversy and to make an initial diagnosis of the nature of the problems. The following are among the subjects that the Contadora Group ministers believe should be given special attention: the arms buildup, the control and reduction of weapons, arms trafficking, the presence of military advisers and other means of foreign military assistance, actions aimed at destabilizing internal order in other states, verbal threats and attacks, warlike incidents and border incidents, violations of human rights and individual and social rights, as well as the grave economic and social problems behind the crisis affecting the region.

The differences regarding the priority, extent and scope that each country gives to each topic, as well as the order and manner in which they must be discussed were carefully and thoroughly analyzed. The group agreed on the need to prevent inflexible and rigid positions that could be an obstacle to the common purpose of achieving detente and encouraging peaceful coexistence. To this effect, the ministers arrived at an agreement in principle, for the procedures of consultation and negotiation to be followed in the near future, in order that they can adapt to the diverse nature of topics, whether of a regional scope or bilateral character.

The Contadora Group foreign ministers again expressed their profound conviction that with formulas for a peaceful solution and with a real will for negotiations, it is possible to face up to the regional conflicts in a positive way.

The Contadora Group foreign ministers reiterated that the Central American countries themselves are primarily responsible for securing agreements that will guarantee a stable and lasting peace.

The ministers also indicated that based on the experience and results of their efforts in Panama City, it is appropriate to continue with the already established process of consultations, which has proven to be good, effective and opportune. To this end, they agreed to meet again in May, in Panama City. The Colombian, Mexican and Venezuelan foreign ministers expressed their gratitude for the generous hospitality they again received from the Panamanian people and government.

May Meeting; Visits To U.S., USSR

PA230113 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0016 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Panama City, 21 Apr (DPA) -- The Central American foreign ministers left Panama this afternoon without having reached any specific agreement.

The Contadora Group faces this panorama: Nicaragua wants a meeting between the junta's Commander Daniel Ortega and Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, which Honduras does not accept.

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala propose holding a meeting on 30 April in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, with the participation of the foreign ministers of these 12 countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Belize and the Dominican Republic. The group would analyze formulas for achieving peace in Central America. Nicaragua has not agreed to this proposal.

The Contadora Group wants the following:

A. The immediate withdrawal of foreign military advisers from the Central America.

B. The signing of a nonaggression pact between Nicaragua and Honduras.

C. The commitment of the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminating the flow of arms to the region.

It was learned this afternoon that the Contadora Group has plans to visit Moscow in May. They will directly discuss the situation with the Soviet Government. Upon its return from the USSR, the group will reportedly visit Washington for the same reason; that is, to propose that the two large powers withdraw from Central America.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto stated today: "I have nothing to say. I simply do not want to say anything." For his part, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica indicated that "Honduras will never initiate a war against Nicaragua, but if our country is attacked, we will be ready to defend ourselves."

The ministers will meet again in mid-May in Panama with the Contadora Group to take specific steps to resolve the Central American crisis. Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto refused to meet with his Central American colleagues.

Ministers Comment on Talks

PA212252 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2139 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Report by Demetrio Olaciregui from the Continental Hotel's Press Room -- live telephone relay]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the five Central American countries who have been participating in the second round of consultations with the Contadora Group for the past 2 days began to leave the country this afternoon after the consultations ended.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena made a statement to this station as he was leaving the Continental Hotel: [Begin recording in progress] [Chavez Mena] ...hope because we have seen that there is a desire to seek formulas and discuss procedures that lead us to understandings for peace in Central America. This 2-day meeting has been positive because it has allowed us to hold discussions, not exactly in the way we would have liked, but the consultations have been important. I believe that the Contadora Group has had an excellent opportunity to discuss with each one of us the various approaches of each of the countries.

[Question] What did you mean when you said that the discussions were not exactly the way you would have liked?

[Answer] We would definitely have liked to have taken a regional and multilateral approach. However, progress was made but one must be cautious and discreet in these things.

[Question] What will the next step in these consultations be?

[Answer] We discussed a procedure and are analyzing it in order to apply it at subsequent meetings among the ministers.

[Question] Did the two groups hold a general meeting?

[Answer] There were no general or bilateral meetings. [As heard] [end recording]

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica made a statement to the press before leaving for Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport. He said: [Begin recording] [Question indistinct]

[Answer] I feel it was positive because certain views and aspects were analyzed through the dialogue. Each of the Central American foreign ministers exchanged views with the Contadora Group ministers because they wanted to complete their report [words indistinct] in order to reach conclusions and make an assessment of the Central American situation.

We would have liked to have held a meeting of the five Central American foreign ministers and to have taken advantage of this opportunity to do so. Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras have kept in contact because we view the problem as one of an overall and regional nature. Unfortunately, Nicaragua didn't want to meet with us but we trust that it will do so in the future as a result of reflection because such a meeting is one of the best ways to solve problems. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

According to official reports, the Contadora Group is currently drafting the final communique at the end of consultations with the five Central American foreign ministers.

D'Escoto Comments

PA212348 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2305 GMT 21 Apr 83

[By Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto expressed his satisfaction with the results of the Contadora Group meeting, because Nicaragua maintained an attitude of cooperation toward the efforts of the four foreign ministers included in the peace group.

D'Escoto pointed out that the success of the meeting is based on the increasingly evident political will to achieve peace in the strife-torn region. The fact that a bilateral meeting between Nicaragua and Honduras has not taken place is within the logic of the meeting, as the meeting was called to carry out joint consultations between the Contadora Group and the five Central American foreign ministers.

D'Escoto pointed out that it is important to continue the process started by the group, because it allows a serious analysis of the regional crisis and greater movement toward the achievement of detente in the area.

Nicaragua hopes to prevent a war and its tragic consequences and we will do everything possible to achieve it, D'Escoto stressed. The Nicaraguan foreign minister has stated that one of the mechanisms for achieving peace in Central America is bilateral dialogue between Nicaragua and Honduras and between Nicaragua and the United States, which has been rejected by both governments. Nicaragua has also reaffirmed that Managua's exclusion from former peace initiatives presented by Honduras and the United States is one of the reasons for the initiatives' failure.

Havana Notes Conference

PA212158 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Managua has accepted an invitation by the Contadora Group to participate in the second round of bilateral talks which started in Panama City this morning. The talks are aimed at finding a just and reasonable solution to the conflicts in Central America. This was stated in a note that Javier Chamorro Mora, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, addressed to the president of the UN Security Council.

The document stressed that Nicaragua views the resumption of the Contadora initiative as an advisable step in the effort to establish a dialogue aimed at reducing tensions and laying the groundwork for a stable and lasting peace in Central America.

Nicaraguan foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that he will meet with the foreign ministers of countries which make up the Contadora Group and will take advantage of this opportunity to hold bilateral talks with any of his Central American counterparts who wish to meet with him.

The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela, began their new efforts in the Panamanian capital this morning following a meeting with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella.

FDR'S Ungo on Contadora

PA212032 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Salvadoran FDR, does not consider Libya's supply of arms to Nicaragua a reproachable action. He justifies the dispatch of arms to Nicaragua by saying: We all know that there is an attack on Nicaragua, that forces have entered from other countries and that Nicaragua is trying to improve its military defense capability.

Ungo, who met yesterday afternoon with Manuel Carvallo, vice minister of the presidency, today attended the funeral for university professor Mario Flores. Ungo said that he doesn't know what kind of arms the Nicaraguan Government has been requesting or what methods or procedures used to obtain them, but he noted that Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, and not just Nicaragua, are increasing their military power.

This arms race can only lead to a growing tendency to solve conflicts militarily. Ungo, however, did not want to go into details about the Libyan planes that were captured in Brazil with arms for Nicaragua.

The FDR leader said that the Contadora Group's effort to achieve peace in Central America is positive. He also said that the most significant factor in prolonging the Salvadoran war and delaying a solution is an external one that is deeply disturbing: The Reagan administration's position.

Therefore, the actions and attitudes of several Latin American countries have considerable importance for the region, in that they are part of a process of seeking a means of stopping the war and of finding a political, rather than military, solution, Ungo added.

Ungo spoke about the spirit of the Contadora Group, saying that it could encourage other countries and governments to get involved. He said that this is part of a process and that final results cannot be expected without initial steps to achieve detente. He said the process requires a broad bilateral and multilateral dialogue that will face both common Central American problems and the specific situation in each of the Central American nations.

The Salvadoran leader said that the situation in El Salvador differs from that in Nicaragua, as there are aspects of the latter that can be solved between governments, while in the case of El Salvador it is the parties in conflict that should negotiate.

Ungo said that he is optimistic about the spirit of the Contadora Group because it is a political reality, a beginning that has already produced political results. He said that although the results could be insufficient, they are links in a chain that could open the door to dialogue. He noted that any results will have to be evaluated, to see how they fit in with a second phase that would involve consideration of more important aspects.

Ungo said that the Salvadoran guerrillas arm themselves by recovering weapons and that the guerrillas' main purveyor of arms, therefore, is the U.S. Army. According to Ungo, the guerrillas have recovered more than 1,000 automatic weapons to date this year, more than the number recovered in 1982. He said that the guerrillas are growing stronger in El Salvador and thus are recovering an increasing number of arms from the Salvadoran Army.

Robelo View on Conference

PA211305 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Panama City, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan opposition leader Alfonso Robelo said here tonight that armed men belonging to his group ambushed a Sandinist Army patrol boat in southern Nicaragua. Robelo, who addressed the Panama Lions Club tonight, told reporters that an armed group belonging to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) ambushed a Sandinist Army patrol boat 2 days ago and that two of the Managua government's troops were killed in the ensuing fight. The site of the clash was the Rio Maiz, 50 km from the Costa Rican border, near the Maiz bay.

In a brief statement to the press, Robelo noted that his political group appreciates the effort by the "Contadora" foreign ministers to find peaceful solutions to the Central American conflict. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan opposition leader criticized the position taken by the "Contadora Group," in that they speak in favor of the Nicaraguan people and forget about the Salvadoran people.

After describing the position of the Colombian, Venezuelan, Panamanian and Mexican foreign ministers as inconsistent, he declared that Mexico is not qualified to mediate in Central America after it expelled him from Mexican territory, where he was not permitted to speak. Alfonso Robelo labeled this a "definition of position" by Miguel de la Madrid's government.

Referring to the chance of finding common ground with the anti-Sandinist invasion forces in northern Nicaragua, Robelo noted that to label them former Somozist guardsmen would simply be engaging in a propaganda campaign. The former member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction also insisted that Arde can achieve "logical cooperation and coordination" with those forces.

Harshly criticizing those who reject the U.S. aid for the anti-Sandinists, Robelo described the Managua Government as a "communist regime" aided by Cuba. Finally, he recalled the recent detention of four Libyan aircraft in Brazil for carrying arms for Managua and termed Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi an "international terrorist."

Anti-Sandinist Rejects Contadora

PA201615 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1239 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Fernando Chamorro Rapaccioli (El Negro) has released a statement in San Jose expressing "great concern" over the intervention of the "Contadora Group" in the search for peace in Central America.

Chamorro Rapaccioli, a member of the anti-Sandinist opposition, especially referred to Mexico "which on several occasions has shown its prejudice with regard to the Nicaraguan problem."

The statement accused the mediator countries of "apparently being unaware of the Nicaraguan reality" and of lending themselves "to consolidate Managua's Marxist-Leninist government. The governments of the countries of the Contadora Group," Chamorro Kapaccioli added, "have been systematically supporting the Managua regime with all kinds of political, economic and moral measures. This has not begun now but goes back to the beginning of the new dictatorship."

The opposition leader said that in the past those countries did not say anything about the tortures or the elimination of Indian communities, the executions and the violations of human rights in Nicaragua. But now, "when the Sandinist regime has begun to teeter," the governments of the Contadora Group "are playing into the hands of a false theory that will only serve to consolidate the second Soviet dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere." The anti-Sandinist commander said that his armed forces reject the moral authority of the current peacemakers and that they proclaim that they will achieve their objectives "only through the armed path."

UNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN MANAGUA

PA202038 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 83 p 7

[Statement issued by the Broad Executive Committee of Latin American and Caribbean Unity following an 8-11 April 1983 meeting in Managua, Nicaragua]

[Text] The members of the Broad Executive Committee of Latin American and Caribbean Unity [Comite Ejecutivo Ampliado de Unidad Latinoamericana y del Caribe] who gathered in Managua from 8 to 11 April 1983, after analyzing the political, economic and social situation in Latin America, particularly that in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the evolution of international relations, declare that:

1. A dangerous increase in tension is underway in Central America and the Caribbean, threatening peace not only in the region but throughout the world.

2. The basic stimulus for this irrational escalation toward war in the area is the U.S. policy created by Ronald Reagan, who hopes to eradicate the self-determination of the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran peoples.

3. This policy is evident a. In the all-out support given to murderous armed bands and former Somozist guardsmen who invade Nicaragua from Honduras or undermine, from inside the country, the peaceful advance of the Nicaraguan people toward the establishment of a more just society, based on the satisfaction of their needs and on independence from the imperialist yoke;

b. In the increase in military, political and economic aid to the Salvadoran Government, in the hope of putting an end to the people's offensive against a regime that is oligarchic and subservient to imperialism;

c. In the political and economic pressure on Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada;

d. In the intensification of various kinds of dirty CIA actions, which have become evident throughout the area's countries and which just reached a very grave culmination in the assassination of Melida Anaya Montes, the FMLN's "Commander Ana Maria," in Nicaragua;

e. In the efforts to obtain new military bases or areas for logistical support in Central America and the Caribbean;

f. In the acceleration of plans to establish a NATO presence in the area;

g. In the plans to seek control of nonrenewable natural resources, particularly those of strategic value in Central America and the Caribbean, as a possible replacement for those that are produced abroad and that may be affected by political developments in South America, Asia and Africa or by a serious increase of world tension;

h. In the rejection or disregard of repeated offers from the Nicaraguan Government to engage in dialogue to face the problems that exacerbate the crisis in Central America and the Caribbean; and of the proposals by El Salvador's FDR-FMLN for a just, sovereign and lasting settlement to that country's conflict.

i. In an increase in all kinds of military activities in the Panama Canal area, moving toward intervention in the Central American countries' affairs, particularly those of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

4. The U.S. Government not only supported the British military action against Argentina and coordinated its own economic sanctions and those of the EEC but is now supporting the construction of a large British air and naval base in the Malvinas for use in controlling the South Atlantic and in maintaining a permanent focus of international tension in the area, though it voted earlier for a resolution seeking negotiations between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

5. The U.S. Government's military plan to arm the United States beyond its needs is a threat to world peace, while at the same time affecting the Latin American and Caribbean countries' economies and sponsoring large military expenditures in the region.

6. The development of a crisis in the primary capitalist countries, which is spreading to affect the world around them, affects Latin American countries particularly and presages a long period of economic stagnation, social confrontation and an increase in the external economic vulnerability of most of the region's countries. This crisis reached such an extreme that Latin America is suffering its worst economic crisis of the last 40 years, perhaps the worst in history if we consider the suffocating level of its foreign debt; the magnitude of the drain on its natural resources, which are sent abroad; and the fact that, as a general rule, the growth in the region's gross product is so low that it is not even enough to meet the needs of the area's population.

Consequently, the Broad Executive Committee of Latin American and Caribbean Unity declares that:

1. The international conflicts in Central America and the Caribbean are rooted in economic backwardness, humiliating social inequality and the traditional subordination to U.S. economic and political interests and do not result from the East-West confrontation, even though the latter may have an impact on the scope of the confrontations

2. Negotiation among all of the area's countries should be promoted in order to achieve lasting peace and detente among them, with the participation of the involved parties, to ensure respect for their national sovereignty; enforcement of the principles of self-determination of peoples, particularly as regards their free use of their natural resources, and enforcement of human rights.

In this sense, we support the efforts of the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama to achieve those objectives as expressed in the Contadora meeting and in the actions that are currently underway.

3. It supports the Nicaraguan Government's just demands for an end to the invasion from Hondurans and the attacks of all kinds that take place with U.S. support, so that a dialogue for peace can begin.

4. It emphatically denounces the actions intended to destabilize the Managua government and to prevent the Nicaraguan people's exercise of free determination.

5. It condemns the U.S. Government's escalation of its intervention in Central America, which, if not stopped, will inevitably lead to the Vietnamization of the area.

6. It supports the Salvadoran people's right to put an end to the semifeudal and pro-imperialist regime, which oppresses the people in the areas under its control, and supports any initiative that can create conditions that will permit a dialogue leading to a satisfactory negotiation of the problem.

7. It asks for the withdrawal of the armed forces in the areas of conflict and an immediate stop to all actions to destabilize governments in Central America and the Caribbean.

8. It urges that a zone of peace be established in Central America and the Caribbean, which would permit a reduction in military effort and promotion of area development and cooperation.

9. It denounces the installation of a large British air and naval base on the Malvinas Islands, equipped with nuclear weapons with U.S. support, and it demands the return of sovereignty over the Malvinas, Georgias and South Sandwich Islands to Argentina, to be undertaken, as much as possible, through negotiations among the interested parties.

10. It urges the Latin American governments and peoples to unite their efforts at solidarity in confronting the effects of the crisis that derives from the more industrialized capitalist countries, particularly with the objective of postponing the payment of their crushing foreign debt and the conditions of its repayment. This policy must be extended to cooperation with all third world countries.

FLEET CONDUCTS EXERCISES IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

PY212258 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2152 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 21 Apr (DYN) -- The Argentine sea fleet has been navigating in the South Atlantic in compliance with "the objectives of a pre-established operation" aimed at "training commandos and crews." The operation includes the 25 de Mayo aircraft carrier and all of the Super Etendard planes of the naval air force, it was officially reported today.

In a communique released by the commander of naval operations at Puerto Belgrano, east of Bahia Blanca, it was reported that the ships began to sail in groups a few days ago and that the last group departed today bound for the "Atlantic coast."

It was added that apart from the above carrier and the Super Etendard planes, the following units are also participating in the operation: destroyers equipped with missiles, frigates, corvettes, submarines and "amphibious landing units for mined areas."

It was reported that first class and second class destroyers -- those with and without missiles -- corvettes and those units comprising the anti-mine and support squadrons are under the command of Rear Admiral Eduardo Morris Girling, commander of the sea fleet, who is on the flagship, the 25 de Mayo aircraft carrier, from where he has been supervising and controlling the activities of the various units.

The five Super Etendard planes, which were commissioned in December 1981 and those recently purchased from France, are operating from the 25 de Mayo carrier, it was reported.

In order to allow the Super Etendard planes to operate from the carrier, certain special systems had to be installed on board the ship.

"Once this stage was completed without problems," the commander of naval operations reported, "the appropriate tests were made and an intensive training program was conducted to allow the operations and flight deck personnel to familiarize themselves with the system in order to carry out landing and takeoff operations. These operations have already been executed and show that there is now a new option for this versatile fighting unit."

It was also reported that "at this stage, the main purpose of the sea fleet is to train commandos and crews so that the existing operational objectives may be met, so that available means may be used with the greatest efficiency in the very short term and so that the navy may fulfill its mission."

The communique indicates that "ships set sail toward the Atlantic coast on different dates" and that "the last ships departed today in accord with existing plans designed to carry out exercises involving surface, antisubmarine, submarine, naval air force, amphibious landing, antimine, electronic warfare operations as well as those involving frogmen and logistical units."

It was reported that the exercises will include firing at targets at sea and on land, launching torpedoes, submarine and antisubmarine attacks, actual towing of ships, damage and fire control, navigation practice and other activities aimed at the intensive training of crews." It was also reported that in order to meet operational training requirements, navy school cadets -- the future navy officers -- have set sail in the ships of the fleet.

The communique concludes by saying that "Cabo San Antonio" landing craft is carrying marines who will engage in amphibious landing exercises.

BIGNONE ENDS PATAGONIA TOUR, RETURNS TO CAPITAL

PY211218 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA) -- President Reynaldo Bignone has reiterated that "the national government has well-founded hopes concerning the results of the mediation" which Pope John Paul II is conducting to resolve the conflict over the Beagle Channel.

Bignone added, however, that "my tour was not motivated by the Beagle affair" when asked whether the conflict would be resolved during the present administration.

He also said that "results are being achieved in keeping with the pattern established by the mediation" and that these results are always simultaneously announced in the Vatican, Santiago and Buenos Aires." He stated that "lately there has been no significant news to announce."

The president made these remarks upon arriving at Jorge Newbery Airport in Buenos Aires, following a 4-day tour which included Tierra del Fuego, Santa Cruz and Chubut.

Bignone said that his tour was aimed at seeing, listening "and gathering as much information as possible to reach certain decisions regarding the region."

He said: "I have returned absolutely satisfied with everything I have seen and heard and I feel that my tour has accomplished its purpose because we have brought back the information we need for our resolutions."

CONDOLENCES EXPRESSED TO U.S. ON BOMBING

PY211755 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1729 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry reported today that Argentina has expressed its condolences to the United States regarding the attack on that country's embassy on Monday in Beirut.

At the same time, our country reaffirmed its policy of condemning any type of terrorist action, such as the one that occurred in Beirut.

Lucio Garcia del Solar, Argentine ambassador to the White House, visited the State Department yesterday to officially make known, in the name of the national government, this position.

CHILEAN ARMY ACCUSED OF MINING BORDER AREA

PY201854 Paris AFP in Spanish 0331 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP) -- It was disclosed in this capital today that the Chilean Army is mining the border area with Bolivia in order to keep the Bolivian peasants away and to divert the (Kanu) and Caquena Rivers.

These charges were made by Deputy Constantino Lima Chavez, member of the Tupac Katari Indian Movement (MITKA), who requested that a congressional commission travel to the area to verify his statements.

In addition to this, Lima Chavez sent a letter to President Siles Zuazo requesting that military troops be sent to the area to verify his charges.

So far, neither the government nor Congress have commented on Chavez' statements.

CABINET ANALYZES COMIBOL INTERVENTION BY FSTMB

PY211600 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpt] President Siles Zuazo's Cabinet has analyzed the situation of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol] after its intervention by the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB]. Official government sources have pointed out that the executive branch will not adopt any official position in this regard and that the case will be analyzed from various points of view.

Paz Zamora's Comments

PY211335 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora stated that the intervention of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, Comibol, by the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia, FSTMB, is not an attack against the democratic process. Paz Zamora said that the intervention is designed to guarantee the economic foundations of democracy. The vice president paid an unexpected visit to Comibol's executive council, which is made up of mineworkers. The members of the executive council explained to him the reasons for the intervention.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] This measure is by no means against the democratic process conducted by the Bolivian people. My first impression is that the measure is (?carefully) designed to preserve and further develop the democratic process because the strengthening of the productive apparatus will guarantee the economic foundations needed by democracy to work and develop. [end recording]

The vice president also stated that the mineworkers have reacted to Comibol's critical situation, which was brought about by Comibol's bad management in the past. Paz Zamora said that the intervention was promoted by justified reasons. The workers have struggled for democracy and sought changes, which is the purpose of the recent measure adopted by the mineworkers.

In the meantime, a confusing situation developed in the Comibol headquarters, when 95 percent of the technicians returned to their specific functions. In other words, the majority broke the strike and decided to return to work. However, the FSTMB, which intervened in Comibol, believes that this mining organization does not need so many technicians but, at the same time, cannot dismiss them. The miners agree that Comibol should operate with the professionals and technicians available.

Proposals Analyzed

PY211825 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Jose Nunez del Prado, president of the Labor and Labor Development Ministry Commission for Comanagement Affairs, has pointed out that the intervention of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol] carried out by the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] is not regarded as a proposal for comanagement, but rather as an active demonstration of support by the rank and file to their representatives with the objective of eventually implementing a comanagement system in state-owned enterprises.

Jose Nunez del Prado pointed out that the proposals made by the FSTMB and Labor Ministry for the joint participation of workers and managers in the administration of productive enterprises are currently being analyzed by the president of the republic.

He ended by stating that the intervention of Comibol will expedite the final goal of comanagement.

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS 'NO POLITICAL DETAINEES'

PY220258 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana stated during a press conference held today that there are no political detainees in the country.

[Begin Roncal recording] No, there are no political or other kinds of detainees. There are no detainees. [end recording]

BRIEFS

SPANISH AID OFFERED -- The Spanish Government has offered to help Bolivia implement its national literacy and popular education plan. The offer was made by Spanish Ambassador to Bolivia Tomas Lozano Escribano to Bolivian Education Minister Enrique Ipina Melgar during a meeting held on 14 April. During the meeting, Ipina Melgar briefed Lozano Escribano on the plan, which the Bolivian Government began to implement on 9 April. In the next 2 months, the Bolivian Government will submit to the Spanish Government a detailed report on the assistance needed to continue with the plan. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 83 PY]

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ISRAEL -- The Bolivian Planning Ministry and the international cooperation department of the Israeli Foreign Ministry have signed an agreement to hold a course on rural and regional development planning. The course will be held in Bolivia from 9 May 1983 through 16 September 1983. [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 83 PY]

NEW 1,000 PESO NOTE -- According to reports released by the Bolivian Central Bank, the new 1,000 peso note will begin circulating today [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 83 PY]

CONTROVERSY OVER LIBYAN ARMS PLANES CONTINUES

Libyan Official Opposes Inspection

PY220344 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] The incident caused by the military cargo carried by four Libyan planes which arrived in Brazil last Saturday will merit heavy coverage in tomorrow's newspapers.

(Azur Ramani), the Libyan Embassy's envoy in Manaus, told the press today that his country's government will make every effort and will go as far as may be necessary, no matter what the consequences, to prevent the cargo of the Libyan planes from being violated. We will hold talks with Brazilian Government officials to prevent the planes from being inspected, the Libyan diplomat threateningly declared.

(Ramani) noted that the incident involving the Libyan planes is not as serious as is claimed in Brazil, and thus the inspection of the planes is not justified.

(Ramani) said Brazil has many commercial interests with Libya and should not take the hasty action of inspecting the planes and withholding their cargo. In an ironic tone, the Libyan Embassy envoy said: If Brazil persists in violating the cargo, it could be confronted with a big surprise. Asked whether the big surprise for Brazil could be the fact that the arms carried by the planes could be Brazilian-made, (Ramani) declined to elaborate.

Possible Retaliation by Libya

PY211350 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpt] It has been reported in Brasilia that the incident involving Libyan planes could cost Brazil the loss of a $150-million deal. This could happen if Col Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi decides to cancel the purchase of more than 100 Tocano planes manufactured by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] in retaliation. This deal is only awaiting the go-ahead from Tripoli.

U.S. Involvement Denied

PY211520 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0138 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 20 Apr (EFE -- Brazil made known today that neither the United States nor any other country had anything to do with the discovery of the load of Libyan weapons that were being sent to the Nicaraguan Government. Ernesto Gutierrez, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Brasilia, stated that the cargo was a Libyan "donation" to the Sandinist government of Managua.

Planalto Palace Spokesman Carlos Atila denied any type of U.S. participation in the affair and said that "he did not know" whether the U.S. Government, due to its links with the Central American crisis, had contacted the Brazilian Government today about the load of weapons. According to Atila, the 3-hour meeting that U.S. Ambassador Langhorne Anthony Motley held on Tuesday with top presidential advisers in military and security matters pertained "only and exclusively" to a Brazilian aid program for the Suriname Government.

He also said that the incident will not affect the Brazilian arms trade, considered to be the sixth most important in the world, because we respect international law regarding those exports.

Brazil has requested that Libyan representatives observe the unloading of the planes, which will most probably take place on Friday, when the exact quantity of weapons and their origin will be learned. According to an official Brazilian source, the Libyan Government had asked for, but not obtained, permission for the places to fly over and make stops in other nations.

Nicaraguan Official on Incident

PY220351 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Interview granted by Nicaraguan "Interior Minister" (Miguel Espionsa) [as heard] to reporter (Lazaro de Oliveira) on 21 April 1983 -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is the Nicaraguan Government's position concerning the Libyan planes that have been detained in Brazil?

[Answer] As Nicaraguan officials have already stated, our country has only taken the step you have mentioned. No other measures have been taken.

[Question] Can this sort of incident cause Brazil to change its position of neutrality toward the struggle being waged by the Central American people?

[Answer] We have a more objective view of the problem. We are simply being attacked by the Reagan administration through the Somoza guard gangs. The world is well aware of the fact that our country -- a small country -- is being attacked by a powerful nation and that, therefore, we must defend ourselves.

[Question] It was learned in Brazil that during a press conference, the U.S. secretary of defense said that the arms carried by the Libyan planes were to be delivered to the Salvadoran guerrillas. Could you please either confirm or deny that statement?

[Answer] Through its spokesmen, the U.S. Government usually makes this kind of statement without providing evidence of the truthfulness of such statements. This is just another statement in the long list of assertions they have made in recent months.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONDOLENCES ON BEIRUT ATTACK

PY192345 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro today sent the following telegram to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Please accept the expressions of my profound grief and indignation at the shocking news of the explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut.

NO RESULTS EXPECTED FROM SURINAME CONTACTS

PM211207 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 18 Apr 83 p 4

[ANP dispatch: "Brazilian Officer Holds Talks With Bouterse and Alibux"]

[Text] Paramaribo/Sao Paulo [no date given] -- Brazilian head of state Figueiredo's righthand man held talks in Paramaribo Saturday [16 April] with army leader Bouterse and Prime Minister Alibux. The emissary, Gen Danilo Venturini, who is chairman of Brazil's National Security Council, arrived unexpectedly in Suriname in Figueiredo's aircraft Friday.

No announcement has been made about the purpose of the visit, but there have been reports in Paramaribo and Sao Paulo that it is for information purposes. The general will probably return home today. The Brazilian press, which has levelled tough criticism at the regime in Suriname in the past few months, was surprised by the visit.

Last year, Surinamese leader Bouterse paid a short visit to Brazil, where he asked for economic, financial and military aid. The Brazilian reaction was somewhat cool. Suriname's threat that it would turn totally to Cuba in the event of continued Brazilian refusal has caused concern in Brazilian military circles. At the beginning of this month, FOLHA DE SAO PAULO wrote that the generals are concerned at the presence of Cubans near the border between Suriname and Brazil. According to the paper, northern Brazil is a military no man's land and the military authorities are considering how to fill this vacuum.

A mixed Brazilian-Surinamese Commission for Economic and Cultural Cooperation met in Paramaribo Sunday. The commission has been in existence since Suriname and Brazil entered into a framework cooperation agreement a few years ago which has never been implemented. The commission's discussions were described in Paramaribo as informative. Concrete results are not expected.

NATION TO ACHIEVE $6 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

PY201345 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Brazil will reach its objective of achieving a $6 billion trade surplus. This statement has been made by (Jose Carlos Madeira Serrano), director of the Central Bank Foreign Relations Department. This conviction is also shared by leaders of 18 banks, general and regional coordinators of Brazilian programs for the payment of Brazilian foreign debts.

(Madeira serrano) has added that the trade balance only tends to improve in view of the good combination of internal and foreign circumstances. In the internal field, the excellent agricultural harvest and the recovery of prices of some basic products. In the foreign sector, the considerable drop in petroleum prices.

Very optimistic, (Madeira Serrano) added: One thing is certain: There is no indication of any negative surprise, and all prospects are favorable to Brazil.

$700 MILLION OVERDUE DEBT PAYMENT REPORTED

PY201700 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Central Bank President Carlos Langoni stated yesterday that Brazil is continuously facing an overdue payment of $700 million for foreign debt interest and other commitments in the foreign market due to the extreme shortage of capital. There are two ways to overcome this situation: to obtain $3 billion in trade credits and interbank loans, or to ask for an additional $1.5 billion loan by June. Langoni said that the overdue payments do not affect Brazil's image abroad.

ITAIPU NEEDS $480 MILLION FOR THIS YEAR

PY211730 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] The binational enterprise Itaipu needs to obtain a $480 million foreign loan to complete investments in the hydroelectric project this year. This report was revealed by Itaipu President General Costa Cavalcanti, who last week met with Planning Minister Delfim Netto to discuss this issue. The plant will begin experimental operations in December, although initially it will produce energy for Paraguay alone, in 50 cycles. The installation of the Furnas powerline, which will carry electricity to Sao Paulo, is facing a year's delay.

NAVY NEGOTIATING ISRAELI MISSILE MANUFACTURE

PY181705 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1544 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Apr (EFE) -- Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca has reported that the manufacturing and mounting in Brazil of the anti-ship missile Gabriel is being negotiated with Israel. This missile was used recently in Lebanon and in the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

The Brazilian navy minister stated that although negotiations are being carried out, the final decision has not yet been made. The minister also said that there are other options offered by Italy, France and the United States, but added that it has taken the fact into account that Israel has offered complete technology, including the training of technicians and the maintenance of the material in Brazil.

Da Fonseca added that Aerospatials, manufacturer of the Exocet used by Argentina in the war against Great Britain over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, requires maintenance in France, "like a genuine black box."

MINES MINISTER MEETS VISITING GDR OFFICIAL

PY210205 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals today met in his office with (Wolfgang Kaio), GDR deputy minister for construction of machine tools and processing machinery, who expressed his country's desire to participate in the Brazilian coal program by supplying both equipment and technology. (Kaio) said the GDR could participate through an exchange of products since the GDR is interested in Brazilian minerals, especially in iron ore. Minister Cals said the GDR could participate in this program, especially in the open pit mining system. The GDR Government will send the Mines and Energy Ministry a detailed document outlining the type of equipment it can supply.

USSR, CUBA REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN GUERRILLA PLAN

PA220506 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 0345 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] In an exclusive report, Sutatenza Network today released highly important information concerning the news that guerrilla groups were trying to create the Republic of Amazonia, the Socialist Republic of Amazonia. Sutatenza Network broadcast this news and, of course, considering our station's serious effort to report the news, we will rebroadcast the text of the report by our colleague (Rene Rojas), who obtained this exclusive information:

[Begin recording] The effectiveness of the state's security corps was again confirmed when they intercepted a document addressed to the armed rebel groups who are operating outside the law. The document came from Moscow and ordered the rebels to carry out a series of activities in order to disrupt democratic institutions.

The positive action of the state security corps again discovered the Soviet Union's intervention in the internal affairs of democratic countries, when they learned that Moscow has ordered the Colombian guerrillas to unite or Soviet support will be withdrawn.

The action has taken place at a time when the Brazilian Government is detaining three airplanes coming from Moscow [as heard]. The planes were carrying a large shipment of weapons. Radio Sutatenza Network found out that the Colombian guerrillas received the order from Havana and, consequently, from the Soviet Union, to unite and form one revolutionary front. The guerrillas were ordered to concentrate their armed and recruiting forces in order to create the independent republic of Amazonia.

The state's security forces discovered a document saying that the independent republic of Amazonia would include part of Valle del Cauca, Huila, Narino and Putumayo. The political center of that republic would be Mocoa and the military strategic center would be Tumaco. The Soviet Union's strategic plan is intended to dominate the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Cone. [end recording]

ARMY INTERCEPTS LIBYAN PLANE WITH ARMS FOR REBELS

PA220049 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (AFP) -- A Libyan aircraft carrying arms destined for a Colombian guerrilla organization was intercepted by the Colombian Army, Radio CARACOL announced here tonight, citing sources of the military information service.

Further Report

PA220155 Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (AFP) -- A Libyan aircraft carrying weapons destined for the Colombian guerrillas was seized in the southern part of the country by the Army, the RCN Network and Radio Sutatenza stations announced here tonight. Citing Defense Ministry sources, the stations indicated that the aircraft was apparently part of the Libyan flight that is currently being held in Brazil with a shipment of arms for Nicaragua.

According to the report, the aircraft was carrying 15 tons of rockets, grenades, mortars, carbines, revolvers and ammunition which were to be delivered to the southern front of the 19 April Movement (M-19)

Meanwhile, the CARACOL Network, also basing its report on information from military spokesmen, said that the Libyan plan to supply the Sandinist Army and Colombian subversives was hindered by technical failures of one of the aircraft in the Brazilian city of Recife, while three others were immobilized in Manaos.

Although the flight plan included flying over Colombian territory en route to Central America, for which the respective permit had been requested, CARACOL reported that part of the shipment was to have been delivered to the M-19.

The exact type of the plane seized has not been ascertained, it has been variously described as an Ilyushin 28 and a Hercules C-130. The plane landed on a clandestine landing strip near Puerto Asis in the jungle region of Putumayo, some 800 km from Bogota. One of the insurgents who was preparing to receive the shipment has been identified as Jacinto Torres, alias Genaro. He was arrested by troops of the 3rd Brigade, the same sources added.

The sources also said that the five M-19 members killed early in the week in a thwarted attack on Purerto Asis were part of a commando charged with distracting the army's attention while the weapons were unloaded. This would confirm the disclosure made two days ago by Jaime Bateman, foremost M-19 leader. Bateman spoke to reporters "invited" to the commemoration of the creation of that movement. He said that he had recently visited Libya and had talked with President al-Gadhdhafi.

According to Bateman, the Libyan chief of state had voiced his support for the Latin American guerrillas whom he said the Libyans were ready to aid.

More Details on Plan

PA220322 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0244 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (EFE) -- Gen Gustavo Matamoros D'Acosta, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, said tonight that part of the weapons seized by Brazil aboard Libyan aircraft were destined for the guerrila 19 April Movement (M-19). In a statement to the CARACOL Network, the ranking official indicated that the army intelligence services had detected the "subversive" action on 19 April when a Hercules C-130, detained in Recife, Brazil, was supposed to land in Puerto Asis or Mocoa in the Putumayo region.

Special antiguerrilla troops and 3rd Brigade reinforcements were posted in the region on the Ecuadorean border to prevent the action, but a technical failure forced the aircraft to remain in Brazil.

The Brazilian authorities discovered that the alleged shipment of medicine destined for Nicaragua contained weapons of various types. General Matamoros denied that an aircraft of the Libyan flight detained by Brazil had been detained in Puerto Asis.

Commander Denies Plane Seized

PA220229 Paris AFP in Spanish 0217 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Gen Gustavo Matamoros, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, reported tonight that no Libyan aircraft with weapons for the Colombian guerrillas has been seized in national territory.

In a statement quoted by the CARACOL network, the ranking official confirmed, however, that a plan was underway to supply military material to the Colombian nationalist and extreme leftwing 19 April Movement (M-19) and to the Sandinist Army of Nicaragua through a flight of Libyan aircraft which are currently detained in Brazil.

M-19 REBEL LEADERS DEMAND OFFICIAL CEASE-FIRE

PA211536 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0344 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, 20 Apr (EFE) -- The M-19 guerrilla movement said today that it will not cease its activities until the government officially declares a cease-fire.

In statements made to three radio and press journalists, M-19 leaders Jaime Bateman, Carlos Toledo Plata and Alvaro Fayad said: "We want peace and we will continue to work for it through a cease-fire." They declared that Colombian President Belisario Betancur has good intentions, but that he has been pressured to allow the army to continue its fight against those who are up in arms.

They also stated that the amnesty, which has been in effect since last November, is positive but it is not sufficient to bring peace to the country and to permit them to put down their weapons. They also announced that their organization is being reorganized, that more weapons are being sought and that fighters are being trained to continue the guerrilla group's activities. They warned that if a cease-fire is not achieved, the organization will renew its activities with even greater force. Meanwhile, Maj Gen Bernardo Lema Henao, commander of the Colombian Army, has warned that his corps will uphold their right to defend the lives of all Colombians.

SPAIN'S GONZALEZ ENDORSES BETANCUR PEACE DRIVE

PA182143 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Bogota, Colombia -- Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has told President Belisario Betancur in writing that he supports Betancur's initiatives to reduce tensions in Central America and to seek a constructive dialogue between the conflicting parties. Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran met for 2 hours today with the Colombian president and delivered to him the message sent by Socialist leader Gonzalez. The meeting between President Betancur and Moran was held in (Hacienda Hato Grande). National government officials, intellectuals and those close to the Spanish Embassy in Bogota attended the meeting.

Havana Reports Moran Departure

PA192307 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Moran has left for his country after a 3-day official visit to Colombia, where he was received by President Belisario Betancur. Moran talked with Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, his Colombian counterpart, with whom he reviewed matters of bilateral interest and the current political situation in Central America, an official communique released in Bogota indicates. In statements in Bogota, Moran said that a direct U.S. military intervention in Central America would constitute a real catastrophe. He said Spain advocates a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis and noted that Spanish Prime Minister President Felipe Gonzalez supports the efforts being made in that respect by the Contadora Group.

COLUMNIST CALLS SHULTZ VISIT U.S. 'DUPLICITY'

PA212142 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 18 Apr 83 p 3

["As the Days Go By" column by Ricardo Lopez Toraya: "Ill Will" -- capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] The case of El Salvador, with its state of civil war, has become so involved that it appears the Salvadoran foreign minister is hiding in the person of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. This is the image one receives from the supplantation Reagan has imposed on the puppet Salvadoran Government. There is true duplicity in this diplomatic action: Through its own efforts and using Suazo Cordova's government, the United States is trying to impose conditions on the CONTADORA GROUP good-will gesture, which is a total commitment to finding a truly peaceful solution to El Salvador's internal crisis.

The Salvadoran political and military leaders have certainly given up the sovereign dignity of their people. Now it turns out that that government's foreign relations have been put in the hands of the U.S. State Department.

This is the only explanation for Shultz' presence in Mexico in an effort to influence the negotiations underway on CONTADORA Island [as published] by Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama. He is in our country looking for tolerance, if not support, for the public interventionism of the Reagan government.

Washington does not give up in its rigid posture of portraying the El Salvador crisis as part of the East-West conflict. It does not admit what Mitterrand of France, Palme of Sweden, Gonzalez of Spain and Kohl of the FRG perceive in the entire Central American crisis: that the circumstances of injustice, hunger and exploitation are the causes of popular unrest. Stubbornly mounted on his mule, Reagan, can only see signs of imported revolutions. He imagines their factory in the Soviet Union with shipments through Cuba and Nicaragua.

Abuse

At any rate whether Shultz's role in his dialogue with the Mexican Government on the subject of El Salvador is representative is very debatable. Perhaps the Suazo Cordova government has named him its foreign relations diplomatic adviser. Mexico should consider, however, that this is a lame attempt at coming closer to a country such as ours, already committed to the CONTADORA Island project.

Maybe Reagan sent Shultz to us in a clever response to pressure from Congress and diplomatic circles, which insist that he use Mexico as a guide to the conflicts in Central America and the Caribbean.

We trust that our government will not take one step backward in its peace offer through France in the El Salvador case and that Mexico will not bargain away its support for Sandinist Nicaragua.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DENIES MISSILES IN NICARAGUA

PA211814 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Rotislav Sergeyev, Soviet ambassador to Mexico, has described the recent charge that Soviet missiles have been installed in Nicaragua as a "falsehood" and a "lie."

In an interview published by the newspaper EXCELSIOR, the diplomat said that the charge seeks to make the region's conflict worse, in order to facilitate an attack on that Central American country.

"The situation in Central America has grown worse, due to the constant threat of an invasion of Nicaragua," the ambassador said, adding that "we support the sovereignty and indepenence of all the countries of the isthmus."

After stating that his country has excellent relations with Nicaragua, the official stressed that "the premediatated situation of aggression is the same for all of the area's countries."

On Soviet-U.S. relations, Sergeyev said that they are strained "because we see its attempts to achieve military superiority, so that NATO will surpass the Warsaw Pact."

We have proposed the initiation of equitable security, but the United States does not want to accept that now, though it already agreed to it in Vienna in 1971," he stressed.

He said that the USSR will not allow the United States to attain its objectives and warned that "a very grave danger exists, not only for us and our allies, but for all humanity."

Comments on Arms Superiority

FL210301 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0159 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The first country to gain arms superiority will exercise this power over the rest of mankind with disastrous consequences for world peace, Rostislav Sergeyev, Soviet ambassador to Mexico, has said.

Solid peace, he added, will only be achieved with disarmament actions and a military balance between the superpowers which may contribute world stability.

He warned that the Soviet Union will oppose the United States in achieving arms superiority and denied that his country had deployed missiles in Nicaraguan territory.

Sergeyev was interviewed at Mexico City's airport where he was bidding farewell to a group of Soviet citizens.

DEBT TO SPAIN RESCHEDULED, TRADE TO RESUME

FL220228 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Mexico city, 21 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico today renegotiated its private debt with Spain and will begin to make overdue payments as of 1 January 1986, Jesus Silva Herzog, secretary of finance and public credit, announced here. He said the agreement rescheduled the payments due Spain which exports equipment to private Mexican enterprises.

He said it will reestablish the flow of trade from Spain to Mexico which had been suspended while the question of overdue payments was being resolved. The agreement will be implemented between the Foreign Bank of Spain and Mexico's National Bank of Foreign Trade through a $150 million line of credit at market rates on a 6-year term with a 3-year grace period. The agreement was signed by Silva Herzog and Spanish Trade Secretary [title as received] Luis de Velasco Rami, who arrived here last night.

BUDGET SECRETARY REPORTS ON EXPENDITURES

PA211945 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Apr 83 pp 1, 10

[By Jorge Aviles Randolph]

[Excerpts] Though public expenditures "are being managed with strict rationality, austerity and discipline," according to Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari, "they have been affected by significant pressure; thus the public enterprises' financial situation has tended to be more difficult than initially estimated."

During a meeting with two commissions of deputies -- a meeting that sets a precedent, as this is the first time that a state secretary has personally appeared to give an account of the quarterly public expenditures to the legislators -- Salinas de Gortari reported that in the first 90 days of the year, programmed expenditures amounted to 310 billion pesos, representing 13.6 percent of the annual allocation. The budget deficit amounted to 189.1 billion pesos, representing 17 percent of the budget's provisions.

The official stressed that there have been restrictions on the application of the budget "due to the great dispersion of public works in countless areas." "Important debits," as the planning and budget secretary described them, with suppliers have been detected that were not included in the budget.

Salinas de Gortari said that in order to face these adverse factors, the government "has had to reinforce the allocation of expenditures in line with priorities." He indicated that the most important programs that have been implemented are improvement of public finances, rural development, food production, social well-being and all those involving production.

He disclosed that the balance sheets in selected governments institutions are being analyzed and that the reported progress is being verified, adding that funds will be suspended when irregularities, deviations or lack of discipline in established programs are detected.

As for austerity measures in applying the budget, Salinas de Gortari referred to the reduction in the number of general directorates in the various federal institutions, the elimination of payments to government officials as official representatives at government agencies or as advisers to parastate institutions, the prohibition on purchasing equipment that is not strictly essential, the regulations on the use of airplanes and vehicles and other measures.

He also reported that the number of government administrative units have decreased by 11 percent in comparison to December 1982. [passage omitted]

PAREDES ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PA220241 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Interview with Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of Panama's National Guard, by Harmodio Icaza Sanchez and Luz Maria Noli; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Icaza Sanchez] I'd like to thank you for granting us this interview. We apologize for tracking you all the way out here, but sometimes this is the only way to do it. I'd like to ask you about the constitutional amendments which are the topic of the moment. In the national debate, the interviews and the various televised forums, it has been maintained that these reforms dismantle Torrijism. If we accept this idea, it stems that we are saying that Torrijism and democracy are two opposing views. We are thus saying that Torrijism is the antithesis of democracy. How do you view this now that the referendum poses the possibility that the National Guard will lose the active role that the present constitution had prescribed for it? They see this as the end of Torrijism. What is your opinion of this?

[Answer] I've been very closely following the public debate in which, on the one hand, opposition forces and parties claim that they are burying Torrijism with these amendments and, on the other, the pro-government forces or parties argue just the opposite: that the result of these amendments is the strengthening of Torrijism. In my opinion, they are both wrong although I believe they are speaking with honesty. These constitutional amendments directly benefit the Panamanian people, all the inhabitants of this republic, and that is as it should be. These amendments are not aimed at benefitting any particular group. They were not drafted to benefit one man. They emerged out of a heartfelt need. They emerged to improve the 1972 Constitution. They will go into effect very soon after they are voted on in Sunday's referendum, not only for our benefit, but for that of our children and grandchildren.

If in the future, this Constitution needs new adjustments, it would be up to that generation to make the appropriate changes. But right now, these amendments only benefit, and it must be that way, the Panamanian people. Amendments to a constitution are not made to benefit political groups of any particular leaning. In referring to political parties, most of them, not to say all of them, have made a great contribution in this crucial moment of our republic so that these amendments can become a reality We must, and I am taking this opportunity to do so, congratulate the foremost leaders of all political parties. These congratulations are extended especially to the parties' representatives, those distinguished Panamanians who were members of the commission that reviewed the 1972 Constitution and concluded this great task which they have already given to the president of the republic for his disposition. The entire community and all the citizens must appreciate this tremendous contribution made by the political parties.

Regarding the controversial issue of Article 2, the National Guard requested that it be taken out of that article which lists the three traditional branches of government. Regarding this, I'd like to tell you an anecdote: One night at the presidency -- I apologize because I have not been authorized to mention this by the personality I'll mention. When I met former President Arnulfo Arias, in a brief moment we were alone, a very brief period but we discussed important matters.

He told me: Look General, you have good intentions; however, regarding this topic of the constitutional amendments you want -- as you announced on the day of the change of presidents -- I don't think you'll be able to accomplish it. I am not telling you this because I am speaking off the top of my head but because it is a topic and a political issue which is very difficult. I am telling you this very honestly because I am certain that the first opposition you will encounter will be within the National Guard itself.

My friend Icaza, my reply to that is: The greatest support I found right at hand, was that of my comrades in arms: the General Staff, the officers and all the troops. This is where I received the greatest moral support to continue with this task in which President de la Espriella also helped. We believe it is also important to explain the following about the National Guard's nonparticipation or active participation and about recent constant remarks that the National Guard is leaving the political arena.

When the 1972 Constitution was drafted two vital articles point out a very significant fact: Article 2, which I already mentioned, and Article 277, which specifically appointed General Omar Torrijos chief of government and listed all the powers he received from the Constitution at that time. However, there was a reason for these two articles. Special powers were granted to one man because he needed them then. These powers were needed so that he could basically improve or begin the struggle to seek an improvement of the 1903 treaty, which after much struggle, negotiation and history resulted in the Torrijos-Carter treaty. When General Torrijos, the National Guard and the Panamanian people achieved this purpose which seemed impossible prior to that moment in 1977, the general asked that these powers be withdrawn from him and that he be dismissed from his post or that Article 277 be eliminated.

That is where the democratic opening begins, by calling the political parties to register again, so that they can resume life and become active in the country, as it is happening today. Therefore, following the action initiated by Torrijos, we felt, that at this moment, with the changes taking place in the country, as a permanent part of life, it was no longer necessary for us to be one of the branches of the republic or of the Panamanian nation. As we once said at the Presidency of the republic, there is no doubt that real power should progressively return to where it should be; that is, at the Presidency of the republic. The president should be the person chosen by the people's majority vote.

I would like to take a moment to point out -- particularly to those Panamanians who are 30 years old or younger I am addressing myself to them because in 1968 they were only 14, 15 or 16 years old; some were only 13, and today they are citizens with full rights -- that in 1968, when the National Guard assumed the political leadership through an abrupt change which has been called a military coup, it was because at that time the civilians who were responsible for governing the nation in an orderly manner had instead lowered the level of efficiency below what was tolerable. Immediately, conditions were given; someone had to maintain order. There was a state of disorder; unrest was running high and chaos was ready to break out everywhere. The Armed Forces had to take control. It happens everywhere, not only in Panama, that the armed forces steps in to take control of the situation so that our fellow citizens will not resort to violence as we are seeing around us in Central America. After 14, 15, 16 years, we realize that a series of events have been taking place. Politically, we are more educated. We have learned to live together.

There are no big issues dividing us. An example of this is that you have people everywhere campaigning for a vote in favor of the constitutional reform, very few oppose the reform. This is a classical example of national unity in relation to the issue of the constitution which we need to improve.

My friend Icaza and Miss Noli, we feel that we are just doing our duty, that is, putting the government in the hands of the people so that they, in return may choose their best children to run it.

With regard to the National Guard, the members of the Armed Forces are absolutely returning to our garrisons and withdrawing from the country's political life; it is a fact, it is true. But at the same time, it is also true that the people want and need their Armed Forces. The people depend on it the Armed Forces, especially, where living conditions are most difficult. That is why we must admit that after 16 years of coexistence between the Armed Forces and the people, the Armed Forces cannot just walk out on the people. We could give an example, the civic action program. It would be a real pity to suspend this program, because the people are benefiting from it, especially, the communities in remote areas.

[Noli] General, you mentioned political parties, but many observers of national life say that one of the reasons for the 1968 coup d'etat was the proliferation of political parties and the degeneration that resulted from it. At this moment we have 12 legally registered political parties and 4 in the process of registering. Those criticizing the constitutional amendments contend that the amendments are nothing more than an agreement among the parties. What is your opinion? What was the real purpose of the amendments?

[Answer] We believe that in a truly democratic process the agreement and participation of political parties is inevitable, because in the democratic system, it is traditional for the people to express their ideologies through their political parties. We have 12 registered political parties. You will recall that when the membership requirement to register a party was established at 30,000, many political observers thought it was exaggerated, too high a number. Recently, however, you can see how very fast the parties are registering. This indicates that the people want to participate; that is why they are registering. There is no other way, except through the political parties, when we talk of real democracy, if we want to improve it as we are doing it now. There is no other way. We would have to establish another system of government with a different ideology, contrary to what Panamanians like.

Under the circumstances, we must accept that political parties had to return to the nation's life and we have made this possible. Today, we believe that these parties have advanced politically and have learned the lesson we all had to learn so that a similar situation to the one we had in 1968 does not happen again. In summary, I would say that political parties are absolutely necessary to a democratic system. Without political parties, we would not have a democracy. For us, democracy is the best system there is at this moment in the world for the peoples to live by. Nevertheless, democracy is not the perfect system; there is no perfect system. We respect the democratic system; we think it is the best and that it should have political parties.

[Noli] The process has been claiming the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, the 505, as one of its achievements. The opposition parties have stated that this referendum eliminates the 505. The national government says that the 505 remain as an institution just as they were created in the beginning.

Nevertheless, the 505 cannot meet in an assembly. They cannot summon, as the 505 or as an institution, a minister to question him.

1. Has the Corregimiento Assembly been eliminated? 2. If it has not, then why bother with the effort of having the 505?

[Answer] The 505 are being returned to the exact position they were created to occupy. In each corregimiento, there is always someone who is worried about the woman who is in labor and the man, the youth or the lady who had an accident in which he or she broke a leg or got cut with a machete. There is always someone who is present when another yells help. There is always someone who mediates in a fight. That someone is the natural leader of a community.

When, in their first election and in a subsequent one, the Panamanian people elected their corregimiento representative, it is not true that with their vote they were authorizing the representative to become a legislator. This must be very clear. The corregimiento representatives are the ones who best know this historical truth. The idea was -- and it is going to be this way now with these amendments -- to keep that person, that man or woman -- because there are also corregimiento representatives who are ladies -- with their community. Therefore, this is one of the matters we want to improve.

On the one hand, we want an assembly that represents the legitimate will of the people and on the other, a system that is present in each community, through the corregimiento representative, as part of the basic organization of the country's administrative and political division: the corregimiento.

[Icaza Sanchez] General, one last question. These amendments eliminate the immunity of the 505. They give recognition and almost give autonomy to the judicial branch in a way that has never been done before. They give the political parties viability which they never received from any previous constitution. They establish that the president, legislators, mayors and so forth be directly elected. They return the National Guard to the garrisons and remove it from political power. There are some who say that these amendments even move the National Guard away from the people. I could go on listing other amendments. However, there are some people who know they are going to heaven and they are still crying about it. [Paredes laughs] What do you think of these people?

[Answer] There are several other victories and new articles which I feel are very healthy for the republic. The first one of them is the election of legislators through a direct popular vote. Another great step, which is also very popular, is the election of mayors through popular vote. If people approve these amendments on Sunday, the mayors will be chosen in that democratic way.

[Icaza Sanchez] Is there any amendment you don't like?

[Answer] The amendments are not perfect. For example, I can tell you one criticism I have. It concerns the article that provides for the recall of deputies or legislators who have been elected. According to this article, the leadership of a party has the right to remove a deputy or legislator who does not follow the guidelines or philosophy of his party. I don't think this is fair because a good legislator or a patriotic deputy can at one time disagree with viewpoint of his party's leaders because he is taking the most advisable path at that specific moment: benefitting the majority that elected him. In other words, he can be removed because he is trying to benefit a large portion of his supporters.

I think that this article is not fair because when a man is elected by an electoral district, he is then committed to the 30,000 or 40,000 citizens who chose him. His second priority should be his party. It should not be the opposite. In other words, the amendments seem to say that a legislator's first commitment is to his party's leadership and then to his people.

I will end by saying that with these amendements we are strengthening our peace. We are moving away from possible outbreaks of violence. The important thing is that all we need is an hour of your time to go say yes or no to these amendments. However, other nations are giving their lives and shedding their blood to find the peace they didn't know how to achieve in the moments of peace, in the moments in which they could think without the pressure of violence, bullets, bloodshed and kidnappings.

Therefore, we are now very pleased and satisfied that we are Armed Forces which have not been defeated politically or through weapons, that the Armed Forces are in absolute control, along with President de la Espriella. So, as supporters of a civilian rule, we believe that we must take advantage of this moment and of this tranquility to have these changes, this path to amendments, so that the people can get what they deserve, so that they can alleviate internal political pressures, so that the republic can begin a new phase of development, so that the economy can improve and recover from its sluggishness, so that the private sector -- with this trust produced by these amendments and this tranquility -- can invest more, so that our country will never lose the existing balance; in sum, so that we can all get along well. Consequently, the people's decision to go to the polls or not on Sunday, or the large or small voting turnout, will depend on the civic responsibility of each Panamanian.

We have done our part, we have made a great effort. We think it is now up to the Panamanian people to do their part. The Panamanian people must make an act of contrition, a deep meditation. They must reflect with their conscience and then decide their own fate. Our effort is not enough; the efforts of the government and President De la Espriella are not enough. We need the most important and significant effort of all: The effort that will ratify, that will express itself at the ballot boxes. This has to be done by the people. The people are free to say yes or no. The important thing is that they should express their will so that the republic may continue being guided as they wish.

It might be dangerous to stay at home. If we stay at home it might mean that we will end up with the same Constitution. However, always remember -- and your conscience will tell you this even if your relatives or neighbors do not -- that you had the opportunity to seek a better constitution. A group of humble Panamanians exerted ourselves for 1 and 1/2 years -- the longest in our lives -- and it was not easy to accomplish what we have. Some people thought this was impossible, but you have the final word. I would say: If the homeland has given everything for us, our children and those who are yet to be born, why can't we give an hour of our time to the homeland?

Finally, in reply to your question I would say: We have great hopes, great optimism regarding our homeland, our country. We believe in our fellow countrymen, our women, our youth. We consider it unlikely -- even though others might say the opposite -- that a struggle might arise among Panamanians, unless it is a political, civic, honorable struggle. Even though there exists the remote possibility that violence might start in our midst, I am quite sure that violence will never arise among us -- as long as we all think as we do today concerning the constitutional amendments.

BELIZE

POLICE REPORT TWO VISITING U.S. CITIZENS MISSING

PA212211 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2051 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Belmopan, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Two U.S. citizens have disappeared under different circumstances in Belizean territory, according to reports by the Belize Police.

Marvin Frost, a professor in the geography department of California State University, went into the jungle last Sunday carrying only a camera and a machete. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

Martin Alexander of Atlanta fell into the water from a tourist boat near Turneffe Island. The police have little hope that he will be found alive.

COSTA RICA

VENEZUELA OFFERS MILITARY AID 'IF NECESSARY'

PA202131 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Officials of the Venezuelan Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense have met here with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and have reiterated their country's willingness to give him military assistance if necessary. During a meeting at a local hotel yesterday afternoon, Col Nelson de Jesus Garcia, the leader of the group officialy made this offer to the president. The colonel added that the two countries will always seek to solve their problems in an "atmosphere of respect."

Commenting on the meeting, Monge said that "Costa Rica and Venezuela are two democracies with fine relations," and that he appreciates "the aid Venezuela has given us, is giving us at present and will give us in the future." The Venezuelan military officers' agenda included visits to the Foreign Ministry, the national monuments and the Public Security Ministry.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLA DELEGATION VISITS SAN JOSE

PA211256 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran opposition leader Guillermo Ungo is visiting this captial at the head of a delegation from the Salvadoran guerrilla movement, which is to meet with several Costa Rican politicans.

There was speculation early today about a possible meeting between Ungo and Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, but a change was made early in the afternoon and the Salvadoran leader met with Presidency Deputy Minister Manuel Carballo instead. The Salvadoran guerrilla delegation has an appointment tomorrow with a committee of deputies that is in charge of seeking contacts with all parties involved in the regional conflict, in an effort to find a way to ease tensions.

The deputies met previously with Nicaraguan delegates in Rivas, Nicaragua, and announced that their next meeting will be held in Tegucigalpa; but they have not disclosed the names of the people they will meet with there. According to assembly spokesmen, the Costa Rican deputies will propose their plan to achieve peace in due time and will ask Latin American parliaments to support it.

EL SALVADOR

VIDES SAYS ARMY AIDING IN DEMOCRACY'S DEFENSE

PA220251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0144 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova, the new Salvadoran defense minister, declared today that his country is also helping the United States defend democracy on the American continent. At the end of a meeting with a group of politicians, Gen Vides Casanova said in an impromptu press conference that "the 5 million Salvadorans are witnesses to the fact that the trenches to defend democracy have been opened in the smallest territory of America."

"The dead are Salvadorans," he added, "the blood is of our soldiers. I think that this should have a price and a value and I am certain that whatever problems the United States may have, it must understand that the United States must give us the aid requested. If the aid does not come," he said, "I think that we are dutybound to defend the country with what we have and we shall do so."

Tomorrow the assembly will confirm General Vides Casanova's appointment as defense minister. To "learn the way of thinking and concerns" of the political groups, he met this afternoon with representatives of each party in the office of Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the assembly.

GUERRILLAS RELEASE SOLDIERS ON TECOLUCA ROAD

PA212153 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Apr 83 p 49

[Text] San Vicente, El Salvador -- It has been reported that extremists released 66 enlisted men and Lt Antonio Garcia Oliva, 27, on the road to Tecoluca yesterday at 0500. The military men had been held captive by the guerrillas since the attack on the Siete Joyas garrison. The soldiers said that they were forced to "donate" blood in the subversive camp. The officer and soldiers were found by their comrades-in-arms who were patrolling the area at that time. It was reported that the soldiers were initially thought to be subversives but when they raised their hands and indicated they had been captured during last Sunday's attack on the Siete Joyas garrison, they received help from their comrades.

All the soldiers were in torn and dirty civilian clothes and without their combat boots, because terrorists exchanged them for wornout sports shoes. The captured officer and soldiers had been kept in a guerrilla camp, where they had been taken blindfolded. In this place, the guerrillas showed their prisoners their arms and made them listen to "lectures," it was said. It was reported that all the war materiel of the Siete Joyas garrison was seized by the extremists.

Meanwhile, five soldiers who were wounded in last Sunday's attack, are critically ill in Santa Teresa hospital in Zacatecoluca. Another 20, less seriously wounded, were discharged, it was said. The released men were being questioned yesterday at the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers, CIEFA.

FPL ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CARPIO'S SUICIDE

PA211629 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces; date and place not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Political Commission of the Central Command of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, reports with revolutionary sorrow and grief to the people of El Salvador and the world that our foremost official in charge of the Central Command, the commander in chief of the FPL and a member of the FMLN general command, has died.

A. The assassination of our Commander Ana Maria was planned and executed by an individual called Marcelo, a member of the FPL Central Command at the time who lent himself in this way to the diversionist maneuvers instigated by the CIA. In order to perpetrate such a shameful and condemnable crime with deceit and maneuvering, that individual used several former companeros with the pseudonyms of Efrain, Francisco, Jacinto, Lola and Roberto. Marcelo wanted, with this traitorous and evil action, to resolve his resentment of and alleged political and ideological disagreements with Companera Ana Maria.

B. Companera Ana Maria's assassination caused Companero Marcial great revolutionary sorrow, which deepened and led to a emotional crisis when he learned that one of the Central Command members, who was very close to him, had been the organizer and perpetrator of the crime. This led him to shoot himself at 2130 on 12 April in a residence where his wife (Emma) and other campaneros were also staying.

C. In the face of this regrettable and tragic event, the FPL condemns the shameful Crime committed by Marcelo, in collaboration with the other former companeros.
D. With the death of our two foremost officials, the FPL, the FMLN and the Salvadoran people suffer two irreparable losses, for these were two great revolutionary leaders who contributed to the advance of the Salvadoran revolutionary process. They also contributed, with abnegation and sacrifice, to the creation and development of our dear organization and to the advance and development of the democratic revolutionary unity of the FMLN-FDR. With renewed energy, the hundreds of combatants of the FPL, of the FMLN and all of the people will seek the objective outlined by our two companeros to the very end; the defeat of Yankee imperialism and of the puppet fascist military dictatorship.

E. We caution the entire rank and file and the Salvadoran people generally to be vigilant and alert, so that they will not be confused by the enemy's attempts to sow distrust of the leaders and leadership organizations in the FPL and the FMLN, in an effort to weaken and undermine their authority among our people. We call upon them to close ranks and to fight and defeat these imperialist maneuvers.

F. We will intensify our spirit of combat against the aggressive policy of Yankee imperialism, which, in its desire to stop the revolutionary movement, is implementing plans of diversion, aggression, psychological warfare and covert action. We reaffirm that this policy will crash against our combatants' high combative spirit and their determination to struggle until the final victory.

G. The FPL wishes to express thanks for the efforts of and the facilities given our directorate by the Interior Ministry of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction and the FSLN National Directorate in solving the crime of Commander Ana Maria's murder.

H. The Central Command will continue its investigations and calls on all members and the rank and file of the organization to unite around the leadership groups -- the revolutionary Council, the Central Command and the Political Commission -- in order to fulfill the agreements of the last Central Command meeting, to strengthen and consolidate the revolutionary unity of the FMLN-FDR, to promote our political and military tasks with sacrifice and to seek a political solution that is just and worthy of the Salvadoran people's interests.

Commander Marcial, to victory always! Commander Ana Maria, we swear to win! Revolution or death, the armed people will win! Revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] Political Commission of the Central Command of the FPL, member of the FMLN; Commander Salvador Guerra, member of the Political Commission, commander general and the new commander in chief; Command (Leonel Gonzalez), member of the Political Commission and official in charge of the party's organization; Commander (Miguel Castellanos), member of the Political Commission and chief of the urban front.

FMLN-FDR ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON CARPIO'S SUICIDE

PA211708 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Unified Revolutionary Directorate of the FMLN and the Executive Committee of the FDR of El Salvador on 20 April]

[Text] To the Salvadoran people, to the Salvodoran revolutionary and democratic organizations, to the fraternal peoples of the world:

The Unified Revolutionary Directorate [DRU] of the FMLN and the Executive Committee of the FDR, report with great sorrow the death of Companero Salvador Cayetano Carpio, Commander Marcial, foremost official of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, and member of the FMLN general command who, deeply dismayed, decided to take his life on 12 April when he learned the details of the assassination of Companera Melida Anaya Montes, Commander Ana Maria, involving individuals who were members of his organization.

According to the Nicaraguan state security forces' investigations, the traitor known as Marcelo, with the complicity of former companeros Efrain, Francisco, Jacinto, Lola and Roberto, were the ones who committed that abominable crime, which is essentially counterrevolutionary and characteristic of those committed by the U.S. CIA against revolutionary leaders all over the world.

We declare the following about these events.

1. We believe that each and every one of our organizations has the duty and responsibility to always tell our people the truth, with the awareness that we are revolutionaries and leaders of the Salvadoran people's struggle for their liberation.

2. Gathering all of our strength, we face the consequences derived from the results of the investigations into Commander Ana Maria's assassination, which finds us closing ranks and which has become a uniting element that reinforces our unity and our decision to struggle.

3. We state that we will remain firm in the struggle despite our sorrow and that no one and nothing can stop our people's revolutionary advance.

Those who believe that we will be weakened by these grievious circumstances are mistaken. On the contrary, our revolutionary courage is increased and our unity is strengthened. Finally, we reiterate to our people that we are ready to increase our struggle in all fields and that no imperialist maneuvers can be successful in the face of the unshakeable decision of the FMLN-FDR to achieve victory, along with our people, responding in this way to their highest aspirations and thus recognizing and honoring our heroes and martyrs. With unity to victory; united to fight until the final victory, revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] FMLN DRU, FDR Executive Committee of El Salvador. El Salvador, 20 April 1983

FMLN ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON DECEASED COMMANDERS

FL220055 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Apr (NOTIMEX) — Through a communique by the local press here today, the Salvadoran insurgents denied that their country's revolution would be weakened by the assassination of Commander Ana Maria and the suicide of Salvador Cayetano Carpio.

Melida Anaya Montes was assassinated in Managua on 7 April, and on 12 April Commander Marcial, overwhelmed by the fact that the perpetrators of the crime were persons he trusted, committed suicide in that same capital. Cayetano Carpio was commander in chief of the Popular Liberation Force (FPL) and Commander Ana Maria was second in charge. The FMLN and FDR stated in their communique that, taking stock of all the strength of the investigation into the murder of Commander Ana Maria, they accept the consequences of the investigation's results.

The FPL joined the other Salvadoran revolutionary organizations which went on to make up the FMLN and which today, together with the FDR, leads the fight of that Central American nation against the military regime. The FMLN-FDR communique said the events in Managua had a binding effect which fortified its unity and will to fight.

The document, dated 20 April in El Salvador, said that despite the pain which the events inflicted on the insurgents, the FMLN-FDR remains firm in its struggle and that nothing, nor any person, could stop the revolutionary progress of its people. We are ready to intensify the struggle on all fronts and no imperialist maneuver will succeed before the unrelenting determination of FMLN-FDR to achieve victory together with the people, the communique asserted.

The communique reiterated the information released yesterday by the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in the sense that Salvador Cayetano Carpio (Commander Marcial) had taken his life on 12 April after learning the details of the assassination of Melida Anaya Montes. Similarly, it said that the assassination of Commander Ana Maria was essentially a counterrevolutionary crime of the kind being perpetrated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES U.S. POLICY, AID

PA211510 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 April 83

[Excerpts] A U.S. congressional subcommittee has excluded Guatemala from military aid, based on the assumption that human rights are still being violated here.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola questioned this decision by the U.S. congressmen: [Begin Castillo Arriola recording, in progress] ...that Rios Montt's government has applied for or requested material aid or weapons. We do need economic aid, particularly credit for Guatemala that will permit us to survive the current world crisis affecting us, especially in terms of new markets for Guatemalan products. The treatment we have received, not from the U.S. Government but from the U.S. Senate, reflects an unjustified belief in a bad image of Guatemala, which was invented by international subversive forces that are interested in destabilizing the Central American region. Why? Because this is a highly strategic area, where some eastern cells may be trying to wage a great battle for power. We need help, but not at a price that will corrupt or damage our national dignity.

What this subcommittee does, in fact -- for a subcommittee in the United States does not make the final decision -- is one of the first of several steps in the process prior to the final vote by the larger organization, whether the House or the Senate. Thus, we are not distressed by the occasionally perverse position taken by some U.S. senators. [end recording]

Castillo Arriola also noted that there is a good chance of overcoming this resolution against Guatemala: [Begin recording] I think that the meeting with President Reagan, his profound knowledge of the Central American situation and his realization of the efforts being undertaken to establish real democratic governments in this area, free of rightist or leftist extremism, demonstrate that the Executive Branch has a clear grasp of the area. President Reagan and the State Department have proven this. Thus, I feel that this subcommittee can say anything it wants, since the government's demonstrated support for the people's legitimate aspirations for self-government has been recognized, and I think that justice will prevail in the end. [end recording]

Interior Minister's Comments

PA211639 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Guatemala, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Interior Minister Col Ricardo Mendez Ruiz said today that even without U.S. military aid Guatemala will continue its fight against subversion, which has already been "completely broken up." The Guatemalan military leader said this in response to statements by U.S. Congressman Clarence Long, who opposes his country's provision of arms to Guatemala.

"In reality," Mendez Ruiz added, "I don't know what reasons it (the United States) has for opposing aid to Guatemala, for it is providing a great deal of military aid to El Salvador, despite reports of human rights violations." Col Mendez Ruiz also said that Guatemala has always been a U.S. ally, but that he doesn't know why the Americans are opposed to giving military aid, which "we have never asked for."

Mendez Ruiz added that "we have handled the most difficult part of the struggle against the guerrillas alone, without help from anyone, and right now subversion is way down. We don't have an arms shortage; we have other shortages and needs, but not where arms are concerned."

Finally, Mendez Ruiz said that there are only three countries in America that don't receive U.S. military aid: Cuba, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

PARTICIPANT CITES OBJECTIVES OF 23 MAR 82 COUP

PA192141 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Interview with (Danilo Roca), "former candidate for capital city mayor"; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Danilo Roca] I am infinitely grateful, at such a dramatic moment in the country's political history, for this chance to explain the true effects of the 23 March 1982 coup. For those of us who participated in the coup, it represented a radical change that filled us with hope. The coup was staged to design a political, economic and social model that would help change the huge contradictions that had turned Guatemala into a country in constant political, economic and social conflict. These conflicts had led to total dissatisfaction and consequently to a confrontation that had contributed to bloodshed in this country. I would like to point out that the bloodshed has not diminished since the 23 March coup.

Some people might think that we civilians are not capable of participating in a coup. This was the case on 23 March. Very special conditions contributed so that those of us involved in belligerent opposition -- who had found expression in a political line that was contrary to that defined by the official parties -- and the military groups that had defined a strategy to remain in power sought to prevent the mockery of the people's will and the country's subsequent involvement in an asbolute and final debacle. At that point, the country doubtless would have been inovlved not only in confrontation, but would have been destroyed.

The date 23 March has been accorded a specifically military significance, but that was not the case. This feat was very similar to that of 20 October 1944, when civilian and military sectors conspired together in an effort to change radically that which, through confrontation, had become suffocating and unbearable for the Guatemalan people.

I am under the impression that the young militarymen who initially participated in the coup -- who are not exactly those currently participating in the national political project as representatives of the 23 March coup, for the original ones have not only been excluded on a personal level, but have also been limited in their capacity to respond to the brutal attack on the civic freedoms of the Guatemalan people, which had already been taking place (?prior) to 23 March -- were mostly motivated by the concerns of a group of Guatemalan civilians headed by Leonel Sisniega Otero -- whose political ideology I do not share because I am a revolutionary -- who focused on and transformed a certain mentality, something which at that point seemed an impossibility.

[Words indistinct] capable of confronting as solid a machinery as the one established after about 12 years of consolidating repressive and undemocratic governments seemed to be. The army's young officers responded very strongly and with great determination to that appeal. They also expressed very clear views.

I was summoned to Sisniega Otero's home at 0500 on 23 March. An abortive attempt had been staged a week earlier. A week later we were again making preparations, risking our lives and safety to follow the instructions that Sisniega, who had been the catalyst in this entire process, was issuing at the time the crisis had already begun unfolding.

A group of civilians was present in Sisniega's home, among them (Jose Alfredo Arruega de Pena) and Alberto Antoniotti. Together we began drafting what later, in the course of the morning, became the official manifesto aired on TGW, the radio station located 1 block from the National Police headquarters. Had the attempt failed, we could have become the first 23 March casualties.

The most notable aspect, however, is the fact that although we did not become the first casualties on 23 March 1982, we have become victims since 23 March 1982, because those who were comfortably sitting at home, who could have (?cynically) denied any and all participation in the movement, are now wearing halos as heroes in Guatemala's transformation, without having any more right to it than their connection with sects or groups alien to the truly patriotic feelings that inspired the 23 March coup.

Many may deny our participation, but the TGW airwaves are there to convince all Guatemalans that we did participate with total dedication at the risk of our lives.

We still think that a glorious movement was staged on 23 March. However, that movement has been completely and absolutely distorted. In accordance with the wishes of the young officers, representatives of the opposition were summoned to TGW. The idea was to establish a transition government that would not last over 90 days. This was the army officers' request. The goal of this transition government was to make the militarymen return to their garrisons, to transfer the country's political control to the civilians and to call immediately for a return to institutionality.

A year of uncertainty has passed. We have gone from heroes to persecuted people, from patriots to outlaws. Guatemalans are witness to the fact that the course followed by the 23 March movement has not been marked by economic, political or social breakthrough. Doubtless, the frustration that my family felt at 2000 that day was felt by all Guatemalans when instead of encouragement they heard threats like the ones that had already tired, exhausted and saturated us.

The date 23 March is glorious because of its civic-military content. If an effort is now being made to present this movement as strictly military, the government is also shouldering the responsibility for all the consequences of a 23 March which, without responding to its true objectives, merely enabled another group of officers already in command at the time to become power cadres. They have allowed discredited officials of past regimes to come out now to expand the terms of a quote, democratization unquote, about which we harbor serious doubts.

[Question] How do you view the current government's political opening?

[Answer] The political opening cannot generate confidence because no deadline has been given to materialize it. If this government does not immediately open an electoral process, it will lead the country toward economic ruin. No international financial organization, whether public, private or multinational, can trust a government led by an authoritarian without any controls, who today may be a reactionary, tomorrow a revolutionary, a communist, a socialist, a liberal, or whatever. In other words, a government that cannot define short-term, medium-term, or long-term plans for economic development cannot generate confidence. There can be no economic reactivation under such circumstances. On the basis of its own lack of definition, the political opening is something of a fallacy, a chance for those who feel displaced from national politics to view the hope of emerging politically in 15 or 20 years. We don't know if this government will last 4, 3, 10, 15 or 20 years. If today they decide to say that elections will be held tomorrow, there will be elections; but if they decide to say the opposite, then none will be held.

In other words, there is no control. Divided as they are, the popular organizations cannot serve as the backbone of a serious process.

I think that under the present circumstances, the political opening has been a good pretext to justify the permanence in power of a group of civilians who are using the army to remain in power. The serious part of this is that they are a group of anonymous and inefficient officials.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTRY CAUTIONS NICARAGUA ON ATTACKS

PA211747 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Protest note sent by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto on 19 April 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 April 1983

Mr Minister:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to inform you that at 1100 today a Honduran fishing boat sailing in Honduran territorial waters was pursued and insistently harassed by a Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] patrol boat.

In view of this situation, two Honduran Government patrol boats went to the aid of the fishing boat. Next, four EPS patrol boats arrived and an armed clash ensued in Honduran territorial waters, along the coordinates Longitude 82 degrees, 40 minutes 0 seconds noth; latitude 15 degrees, 10 minutes, 0 seconds in the Atlantic Ocean. Later, the two Honduran patrol boats returned to their bases.

In view of incidents such as this, which can be characterized as hostile and aggressive actions against Honduras' territorial integrity, my government lodges a very strong protest with the illustrious Nicaraguan Government and finds itself forced to again reiterate that if events such as this continue to occur, they will be met by the Honduran Army, in compliance with its constitutional obligation to defend our national sovereignty and to make use of the right of legitimate defense, as established in mutl-lateral legal documents.

Once again, I wish to remind Your Excellency that the Nicaraguan Government continues to refuse to participate in a meeting of naval leaders, which was scheduled several months ago, to find ways to avoid situations such as that which caused this protest note.

I ask Your Excellency to accept my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Signed Edgardo Paz Barnica, secretary. Copies of this protest note have been sent to the OAS Permanent Council and the UN Security Council. Tegucigalpa, 19 April 1983

TV COMMENTATOR ON SHULTZ VISIT TO MEXICO

FL211525 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Political commentary by Oscar Ferrer of the Revista de la Manana program staff and Jaoquin Rivery, journalist of GRANMA newspaper]

[Excerpts] [Ferrer] Good morning, dear television viewers; good morning, Rivery.

The tense situation in Central America, aggravated by the U.S. interventionism in the region, particularly against El Salvador and Nicaragua, has caused the public of the world and especially in Latin America to look with concern toward the region. This concern has been well interpreted by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama. In January those countries held a foreign ministers meeting on the Panamanian island of Contadora in order to try to find a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict.

[Rivery] Despite the international reaction repudiating aggression and war and despite opposition in the United States, Reagan sticks to his guns and is still trying to find a way out through a military victory over the Salvadoran revolutionary forces, at the same time he still harbors the illusion of overthrowing the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Evidence of this is Secretary of State George Shultz' recent visit to Mexico. He has just had a meeting with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and there were practically no agreements at all. There was only disagreement as far as Central America is concerned. Also, regarding other topics, there was disagreement in bilateral relations. Regarding Central America, the subject of our commentary, there was no way of finding an agreement between the two foreign ministers, because their positions are very different. Mexico does not yield regarding the need for dialogue to find a negotiated road toward noninterference in the internal affairs of the Central American peoples, while Shultz sticks to the Reagan line of somehow obtaining a victory in Central America.

The Mexican position of a negotiated solution was strongly supported by all Mexicans, all parties and all the press gave their absolute backing to that position, but Shultz found that the U.S. position was rejected outright. This is interesting, because in Latin America it seldom occurs that a government gets such complete support from the whole spectrum of political and social organizations for a given political line.

COMMENTARY ASSAILS U.S. 'DOMINATED' NEW MEDIA

FL212010 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Commentary by Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] In the problems of the international situation, there is a topic not often talked about, and which constitutes one of the more active fields of battle: the [dissemination of] information. Nearly 10 years ago, the Nonaligned Movement came up with the idea of searching for ways to fight the imbalance existing in the world due to the monopoly of the large transnational news agencies. Later, the idea of a new world information order gathered strengh and was adopted by UNESCO which has been waging a difficult battle against the bellicose attitude of U.S. imperialism which understands no order other than that backed by Washington.

Over a century ago, when the large news agencies were established a monopoly was created which handles information in a unilateral and biased manner, and is always at the service of powerful economic interests. That news empire, which dominates the mass media of nearly all countries of the world, is the one that determines what will be disseminated and how it will be disseminated. And it has the complete support of its clients -- the magnates and owners of the media in capitalist countries -- which manage the press, radio, television, cinema and telecommunications.

We could cite numerous examples of how that news monster behaves. However, be it sufficient to draw our attention to the recent Seventh Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Movement held in the Indian capital. Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said at the end of the summit that the transnational news agencies presented a biased coverage of the event and reflected the events in a distorted manner, silencing everything that was positive about that meeting.

Another example of the aforementioned behavior is in the way the large news agencies report events in Central America. Manipulation and lies have become the habit of reporting on the part of the transnational news agencies to the point where some U.S. congressmen and prominent people have protested that practice of deceiving the public.

Underdeveloped countries have tried several channels to gradually breach that imbalance and establish an alternate media. Thereby, the nonaligned countries' news pool was established and steps are currently under way to establish the Latin American Special News Services Agencies [Agencia Latino-Americana de Servicios Especiales de Informacion -- ALASEI], which aspires to regulate the existing imbalance and neutralize a little of the one-sided news flow, aimed at conditioning the minds of the Third World population to the way of life, customs, standards of purchasing and behavior, and to the attitudes and opinions of developed capitalist countries themselves.

There are also other interesting experiments in that search for alternatives. The Salvadoran agency Salpress and a new agency, (Conosurpress), established in Stockholm, Sweden have gradually been gathering strength and efficiency in the task of reporting the struggle of the Uruguayan people for their liberation.

In contrast to this, imperialism tries to sabotage, divide and confuse. In order to accomplish this, it creates ghost organizations such as one called the Ibero-American Foundation of Press Agencies [Federacion Ibero-Americana de Asociaciones de Prensa -- FIAP] which recently held its fourth congress in Montevideo, Uruguay. In a country where the president of the journalists, (Elisa Altuna), has been imprisoned for the past 8 years and over 100 journalists are living in exile because of the fierce repression, the current dictator, General Gregorio Alvarez, delivered the opening remarks of that congress and later a lecture on the mass media was delivered by no less than Thomas Aranda, U.S. ambassador to Uruguay.

All of this reveals that the battle of information is an important and current event which we will deal with again in an upcoming commentary.

GARCIA-ESPINOSA SCORES U.S. OVER DENIED VISA

FL212352 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Havana April 21, CANA-REUTER -- Cuba's cultural vice minister, who was refused a visa to attend a Los Angeles international film festival this week, today accused the United States of trying to stifle a free exchange of views.

Julio Garcia-Espinosa said: "This just illustrates the hypocritical attitude of the U.S. Government which claims to uphold the principles of free speech." A U.S. official here said Garcia-Espinosa was refused a visa last week because he was a high government official whose visit did not involve bilateral discussions or an international forum such as the United Nations. But Garcia-Espinosa told REUTERS the United States had used his government position as a pretext.

"I am first and foremost a film-maker and I was invited as such by my North American colleagues to speak in Los Angeles," he said.

He said the American authorities had curtailed the "Filmex" festival organisers' freedom to invite whom they wanted. Diplomatic sources said the Americans feared that Garcia-Espinosa might use the occasion to attack U.S. policies.

The vice minister helped found the Cuban Film Institute and his career as a director began before the 1959 revolution which led Cuba into communism. A five-strong Cuban delegation left for the film festival on Monday.

LIBYA MINISTER AL-MANQUSH MEETS WITH LEVI FARAH

FL200215 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Muhammad Ahmad al-Manqush, Libyan secretary of housing and construction, expressed support for Cuban cooperation in the area of construction, particularly in the construction of housing, roads and other works under way in his country.

The Libyan leader was speaking at a meeting he had today with Levi Farah, a minister of the Cuban Government. The visitor also said he was greatly impressed by the work being done by Cuban workers. Levi Farah, for his part, expressed great satisfaction on behalf of all Cubans for the visit of the delegation headed by al-Manqush and conveyed the concern of our construction workers for fulfilling all the agreements in order to contribute to progress of the Libyan revolution.

Meeting With Rodriguez

FL211542 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politboro and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Muhammad Ahmad al-Manqush, secretary of housing of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who heads an official delegation. The Libyan delegation is participating in the fifth meeting of the Cuban-Libyan Intergovernmental Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Rodriguez and al-Manqush examined the result of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of construction, public health, education, maritime transportation and sports. They also discussed ways to step up the economic, scientific and technical relations. The Libyan officials expressed gratitude for the hospitality accorded him in our country, and valued very positive the results of the exchange of views and talks held during the meeting of the joint commission, making possible the further development of economic relations between the two nations.

DOMINICA

LEFTIST PARTY CONDEMNS SECURITY AGREEMENT

FL181900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 18, CANA -- The leftist Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) party has said that a security agreement signed in Dominica last October by five Caribbean islands is aimed at protecting "the reactionary right-wing regimes in the eastern Caribbean."

In a statement issued today, the DLM said that the government here should tell Dominicans what the agreement entailed. "Failure to do this only serves to reveal the secret, sinister plan at the back of such an agreement," said the DLM.

The party's remarks followed Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird's remark that the pact was "insurance against the violent overthrow of democratically elected governments."

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent and Dominica signed the agreement, which provides for assistance in smuggling [as received] and territorial defence.

The DLM said that since the agreement was signed "there has been no public debate on it in any of the islands." "This agreement has not been debated (in Parliament); this goes to show that there is some secret, sinister plan behind such an agreement."

The party said that it was now calling on government "to explain to the nation the full implications of the regional security agreement and to take the issue to (Parliament)." It added: "This military and security agreement goes further by making it possible for foreign troops to enter and attempt to give a bankrupt regime (assistance) from the wrath of the masses."

The party said it had noted that the other islands which signed the agreement had remained silent on Mr Bird's statement. "The fact that no other government involved has refuted Mr Bird's statements mean that what Mr Bird said was in fact true, the main aim of the agreement is to prevent insurrections and overthrows in the various countries."

JAMAICA

CIVIL SERVANTS' STRIKE CALLED OFF 20 APR

FL211935 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 21 Apr 83

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, April 21, CANA -- Jamaican civil servants returned to work today after a three-day strike to protest a new government pay plan was called off so negotiations could resume.

Civil Service Association (CSA) President Sam Stewart said that normality was resumed to allow for the resumption of negotiations with Employment Minister J.A.G. Smith, following talks late yesterday with two senior permanent secretaries. The strike was called off last night. The decision brought jeers and shouts of "sell out" from a small group of members who gathered last night outside the CSA headquarters in Kingston.

The return to work by the civil servants appeared to be the government's first victory against a revolt by the 120,000 member public sector over the pay plan, which would provide increases ranging from 15.5 percent to 45 percent for managers and other senior officials over the next two years. However, other employees have been offered a "carry on allowance" of 780 dollars (1 JCA dollar; 56 cents U.S.) per annum.

Government said these employees would have their status of work upgraded in two years. The government said that it was forced to devise this plan because it could provide no more than 100 million dollars for salary increases in the first year of a new wage contract to replace the one that expired at the end of March.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said in a broadcast Tuesday night that the government had "absolutely no room for manoeuvre" within the 100 million dollar allocation.

But he added that attempts would be made to raise an extra 3.5 million dollars in order to provide at least a 12.5 percent increase to those employees who would get the 780 dollar hike. This would be in line to the offer made to public servants before the pay plan was re-written.

Prime Minister Seaga said in his broadcast that the 15-dollars-a-week increase that most public sector workers would get was as good or better than they received in several cases during the 1969's and 1970's.

But Trevor Munroe, the general secretary of the Marxist Workers Party (WPJ), said last night that the 15 dollars during the 1970's had significantly greater purchasing power than at present.

MARXISTS BLAME IMF FOR MEAGER WAGE OFFER

FL212015 Bridgetown CANA in English 1905 GMT 21 Apr 83

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, April 21, CANA -- The Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has lined government's inability to allocate more than 100 million dollars (one JCA dollar; 56 cents U.S.) for public sector wage increases this year to its agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce public spending to 30 percent of the gross national product (GDP).

And the party has called on the administration of Prime Minister Edward Seaga to renegotiate the pact which, it said, was creating hardships for Jamaicans.

WPJ General Secretary Dr Trevor Munroe last night drew reporters' attention to Paragraph 26 of the technical annex of Jamaica's agreement with the IMF, which states: "The objective over the programme period is the continued reduction of (the) central government's overall expenditures to a level not more than 30 per cent of GDP."

The WPJ spoke out against sections of the IMF agreement dealing with economic and price deregulation, the liberalisation of import restrictions, and timetables for debt payments.

"In a word, the Workers Party of Jamaica proposed the renegotation of the agreements with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would be directed at freeing up funds to create more room for manoeuvre in the current negotiations with the civil servants and public sector workers, at introducing more control over price increases and rents, at slowing the pace of deregulation of imports, and at reducing the proportion of the country's foreign exchange devoted the debt payments," Dr Munroe said.

MANLEY HINTS AT IMF PERFORMANCE TEST FAILURE

FL212331 Bridgetown CANA in English 2218 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 21, -- Jamaica's opposition leader, Michael Manley, last night called on the government here to state if the country had failed the last quarterly economic performance tests set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for March 31.

Mr Manley cabled Prime Minister Edward Seaga calling for a clear statement on the matter as continued silence was adding "to confusion and concern."

Jamaica should have undergone its last quarterly IMF test at the end of March, which would have rounded off the second year programme for a three-year 650 million (U.S.) dollar Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

There have been persistent reports here that the island had failed the test relating to its net international reserves, but yesterday the general secretary of the Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica, Dr Trevor Munroe, claimed that the next domestic assets and net banking system credit to the public sector tests had also been failed.

The government is usually prompt in announcing IMF successes and the time and the amount for the next draw down on IMF funds, but the initial official line was that the figures were being analysed "by the computer," which was followed by silence on the issue.

YUGOSLAV LEADER COMMENTS ON L.A. TOUR, UNCTAD

FL201114 Bridgetown CANA in English 1021 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 20, CANA -- A member of the presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Vidoje Zarkovic, has said that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting scheduled for Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in June will take place at "a very complex and difficult period."

Speaking to newsmen at the end of his four-day official visit to Guyana, he said: "The global international situation, the international financial situation, and other matters of global characteristics, which threaten the world situation with collapse, will engage the attention of those countries, since many of them are threatened."

He added: "We believe that the conference can be very important. But then, it must be the intention of the participants to make it successful."

"There must be careful consideration of the global situation, and the conference must treat as an emergency question the economic situation facing the developing countries."

He suggested special consideration be given for the removal of the problems affecting the economies of the developing countries."

Mr Zarkovic also referred to his recent visit to Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia for talks with government leaders and said they were successful.

"Throughout these visits we have had a deep conviction that the people of these countries as well as some other countries in the Latin American region are determined to continue their position as independents, taking their directive from a non-aligned policy," he said.

"We see these countries as continuing their plan to fortify and strengthen their relations with each other and cooperate in other fields," Mr Zarkovic said.